

Protection sector update on the protection situation in Tripoli 24 September 2018

Overview:

After 20 days of the ceasefire agreement between the armed groups in Tripoli, deadly fighting erupted between several armed groups in the Tripoli's southern districts on 20 September (Including Khallat Al Furjan, Ain Zara, Abu Slim, Salah Eddin and Ben Aoun). Armed groups used medium and heavy weaponry, which resulted in the displacement of thousands of civilians. Many civilians were trapped without a corridor for safe passage to flee the areas affected by the conflict.

Over the course of the last 4 days, more than 1,500 families were displaced to several locations in Tripoli and across Libya. Additionally, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) 11 persons (including 6 civilians) were killed and more than 18 were injured due to the clashes and indiscriminate shelling.

Current situation:

- The indiscriminate attacks, shelling and usage of medium and heavy weapons in populated areas continued and resulted in the loss of many of civilian;
- Majority of the newly displaced families are hosted by friends, families and relatives; while approximately 200 families took shelter in 5 schools across Tripoli.
- In conflict affected areas, there are reports that banks, markets and roads are closed. The fighting also affected the electricity and water networks and limited caused access to food, health and other basic services;
- Flights in and out of Mitiga Airport were suspended on the evening of August 31, 2018, and the airport has not been reopened to date.



LIBYANS CROSSING THE MEDITERRANEAN

On 23 September 2018, MSF reported that the Aquarius rescue ship has rescued a group of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean, 37 Libyans among the group; The majority of Libyans are children, unaccompanied children, women and families. The main reason behind trying to go to Europe was the ongoing conflict in Libya and discrimination against minorities in Libya

UNHCR reported an increasing number of Libyans joining mixed migratory movements en route to Europe. In 2017, **1,234 Libyan nationals** (including 216 unaccompanied and separated children) arrived in Italy by sea. Despite a 34% decrease in overall sea arrivals in Italy in 2017, **Libyans reaching Italian shores in 2017 increased by 39%, compared to 2016.**

Reasons for leaving Libya:

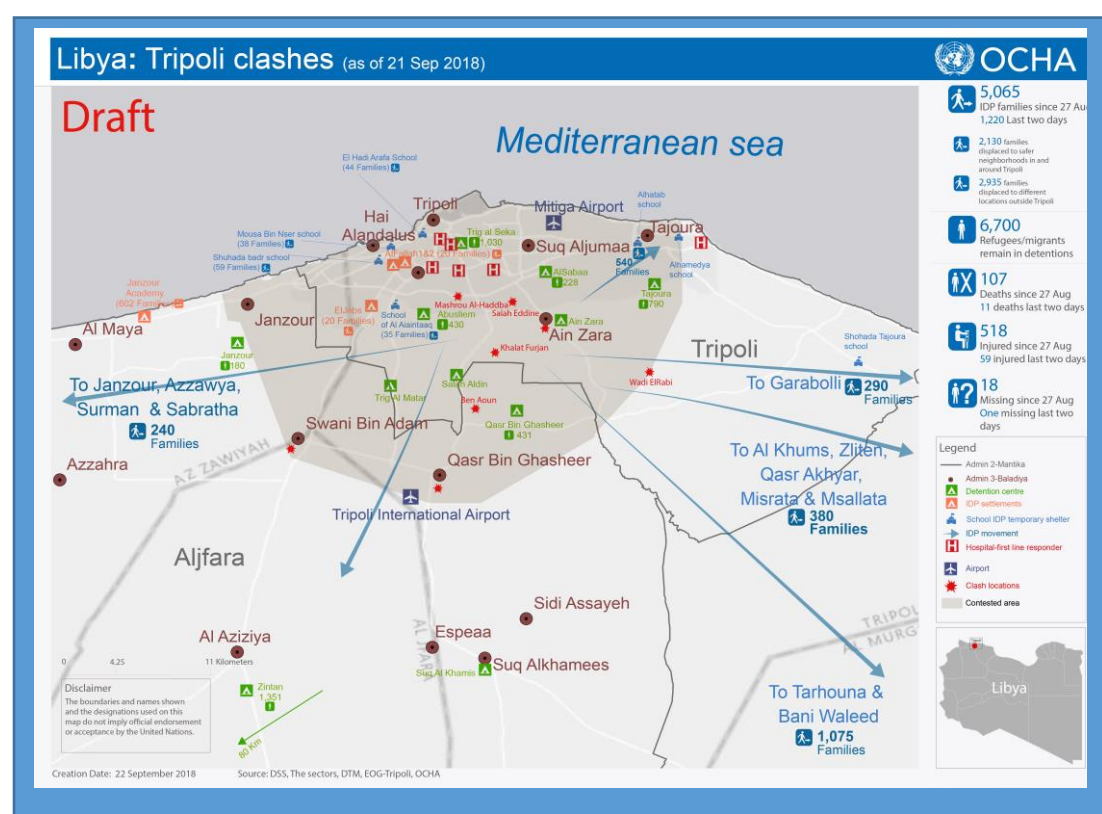
- (a) Growing insecurity, including terrorist threats. Libyans reported that the security situation has worsened in the country, also for Libyan nationals (e.g. risk of kidnapping).
- (b) Lack of basic services and job opportunities;
- (c) Medical reasons and impossibility to receive treatment in Libya (this was mostly reported by families, almost all of which intended to travel to northern Europe, to access better healthcare);
- (d) Intention to join family members in other European countries.



- General lawlessness including looting, carjacking and petty crime activities have been reported in southern Tripoli, contributing to firm refusal of many to leave their homes out of fear of their property being damaged/looted. Additionally, the feeling of lawlessness contributes to a continued feeling of insecurity regardless of the cessation of hostilities.
- Due to the insecurity, many international organisations have suspended their activities in Tripoli and relocated their staff to safer locations inside and outside the country;
- Infrastructure, civilian and public properties and governmental institutions were also affected, including houses, electricity, water and telecommunication networks, health facilities, education institutions, was also affected and

Violations of International humanitarian (IHL) and human rights law:

The humanitarian and international community continue calling all parties to the conflict to strictly adhere to their obligations under the international humanitarian law to take all feasible measures to protect civilians from harm, including the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks and the principle of proportionality; however, the indiscriminate attacks and shelling continued and resulted in loss of many of civilian lives including children, women, families and humanitarian workers. Thousands of civilians were trapped in conflict zone areas and were not given any safe routes to evacuate the conflict areas, civilian infrastructure has been targeted and humanitarian actors were denied access to the most vulnerable population. **The protection sector has concerns on the continue violation of IHL and HRL in Libya with impunity.**



17 persons are missing



5000 families displaced
(1000 families from 20 September)



560 injured (18 from 20 September)



115 civilians killed (11 from 20 September)